

8 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with John Blandford re Soviet and Chinese
Aid to North Vietnam

1. Met with Mr. John Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, and in response to his earlier question told him that we do not have any information on which to base a judgment whether Soviet assistance or support for the U.S. position in the Paris Peace Talks or American attempts toward negotiation settlement in Vietnam will be forthcoming. We really can't read the Russians' purpose at this time. As for aid provided North Vietnam, I indicated that we were not able to verify the figures provided by him on Soviet and Chinese aid to the North Vietnamese of 1.8 billion and 200 million respectively. I also briefed him on the aid provided by the USSR, Communist China and Eastern Europe for 1968 and for the period 1954 to 1968.

2. Mr. Blandford indicated that the figures provided of 1.8 billion and 200 million had been utilized by the Appropriations Committee in floor statements and was apparently provided by "the intelligence community." He had no problem with the figures provided by us, but appeared concerned by the disparity between the figures used by Appropriations and our breakdown.

25X1A

Assistant Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Orig - Subj
1 - Chrn

OIC/JGO:sml (10 Dec. '69)